

Kannada and Kodagu Districts in Karnataka state as Hilly Region and provide LPG connections for domestic purposes to the consumer on demands:

(b) the number of LPG agencies functioning in these districts and the number of existing LPG connections;

(c) the number of consumers in the waiting list of so since how long; and

(d) the time by which LPG connections are likely to be given to all the waiting consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No. Sir. LPG connections are released on demand in the hilly areas at altitude of above 4500 ft. from 1.1.96 and in hilly areas at altitudes between 2000 ft. and 4500 ft. from 1.4.96. Dakshina Kanada and Kodagu Districts have not been considered as hilly regions, in the list of hilly areas prepared by Planning Commission.

(b) and (c). The information is given as under:

	No. of Distributors	Existing Customer population	Waiting list
Dakshina Kannada	26	113271	53060
Kodagu	3	24293	4670

(d) New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country including Dakshina Kannada and Kodagu District in Karnataka State depending upon the availability of LPG new customer enrolment plant, waiting list, slack available with the distributors of the area and their viability. LPG is not an allocated product and no advance allocation is made. All the people in the waiting list in the country are likely to be provided with LPG connections in the next four/ five years.

[Translation]

Solar Energy

1744. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the institutions engaged in production of solar energy; and

(b) the details of the subsidy given to these institutions; State-wise and institution-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). A number of manufacturers in both the public and private sectors are engaged in the production of devices and systems to harness solar energy for generating electricity - related applications like rural lighting, water pumping and rural telecommunications, and for generating heat for use in

applications such as, water heating, cooking, and drying. These devices and systems are being utilised by a large number of organisations and individuals.

At present, a central subsidy of 50% of the ex-works cost of solar photovoltaic systems is being provided for domestic and community lighting and village level small power plants to users under the socially oriented scheme. The subsidy for solar lanterns is Rs.1500/- per lantern. The subsidy distursed to the states for these solar photovoltaic devices during 1995-96 is given in the enclosed statement. These subsidies provided by MNES are routed through the State Non-Conventional Energy Development Agencies. Further, soft loans at interest rates of 2.5% for rural areas and 5% for others are being provided by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, the financing arm of MNES to individuals and institutions purchase of solar photovoltaic devices/systems. Under another programme, solar photovoltaic water pumps for agriculture and related users are also being supplied for which a subsidy @ Rs.125/- per peak watt of photovoltaic capacity is available to users through the solar pump manufacturers subject to a maximum of Rs.1,50,000/- per pump. A soft loan of upto Rs. 1,00,000/- at 5% interest is also available to users in addition to the above subsidy.

For promoting solar water heating systems soft loans are being provided to users through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and Canara Bank under an interest subsidy scheme. IREDA provides soft loans for industrial and institutional systems (at interest rates of 8.3 % to industries and 5% to non-profit making organisations respectively) and for domestic systems through its financial intermediaries (at a maximum rate of 5% to end users).

Canara Bank provides soft loans for domestic users and small establishments at an interest rate of 5.5%. The Canara Bank scheme is at present operational in Bangalore, Mangalore, Mysore, Delhi, Madras and Pune. A rebate of 0.5% on the above interest rate is available for installation of Solar Collectors certified by the Bureau of Indian Standards. The interest subsidy schemes of IREDA is also applicable to other solar thermal products, such as solar driers, and solar stills for water purification.

STATEMENT

Subsidy provided to various States/UTs under Solar Photovoltaic Programme of MNES in 1995-96.

S.No.	State/UT	(Rs.in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	13.50
2.	Assam	3.75
3.	Bihar	74.47

1	2	3
4.	Gujarat	32.50
5.	Haryana	60.08
6.	Himachal Pradesh	147.20
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	173.26
8.	Kerala	170.51
9.	Manipur	5.00
10.	Meghalaya	10.25
11.	Orissa	26.30
12.	Tripura	63.51
13.	Uttar Pradesh	569.32
14.	West Bengal	108.58
15.	Delhi	32.73

[English]

LPG Connections

1745. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of LPG connections given in Karnataka by various Oil Corporations;

(b) the monthly requirement of LPG refills of Karnataka both domestic and commercial;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that there is short supply of LPG refills in Karnataka for the last two months;

(d) if so, the reasons for the same;

(e) the steps taken to ensure regular supply of required number of LPG refills in Karnataka; and

(f) whether the shortage of LPG refills in Karnataka was due to diversion of Karnatakas quota to Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) The total number of LPG consumers enrolled with distributors of PSUs Oil Companies in Karnataka as on 1.10.96 is 13.69 lakhs.

(b) The monthly requirement of Domestic LPG refills in the State of Karnataka is 14818.6 MTs. No separate estimation of the LPG requirement for commercial consumption is made which is supplied in both packed and bulk.

(c) to (e). The demand of the existing consumers of LPG in the country including the state of Karnataka, who are enrolled with the distributors of Public Sector Oil Companies, is by and large being met in full. Temporary backlogs that may arise are learned by augmenting LPG supplies through operation of bottling plants for extended hours and on holidays and by arranging supplies from bottling plants in adjoining areas.

(f) No, Sir.

Programme for Ocean Development

1746. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the programmes which are expected to be taken up for ocean development during the 9th Five Year Plan;

(b) the special emphasis made for Bay of Bengal area; and

(c) the projects now in progress for maritime research units both at Indian Navy and Merchant Navy level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The major programmes proposed to be taken up by the Department of Ocean Development during the 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002) are as follows:

- Continuation of the Antarctic cruises and related research activities, establishment of summer camp and facilities at Maitri, Antarctica, in accordance with the requirements of the recently ratified protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and support of contemporary Scientific research in areas of Polar Sciences in an integrated way with an outlay of about Rs. 180.50 crores;
- As Pioneer Investor and member of the Council of International Seabed authority under investor's category towards development of technologies and pilot plants for assessing techno-economic feasibility of deep sea mining and extractive metallurgy along with survey and environmental impact assessment under Polymetallic Nodules programme with an outlay of about Rs.182 crore;
- Continuation of the mission mode programmes of National Institute of Ocean Technology, involving an outlay of Rs.75 crore;
- Establishment and operationalisation of ocean observation and information services to generate and supply ocean and coastal data products for different users with an outlay of Rs. 105 crore;
- Development of drugs from sea for anti-diabetic, anti-viral, anti-amoebic, anti-anxiety and larvicidal activities with potential marketing of two drugs as traditional medicine and clinical trials towards the development as modern medicine with an outlay of Rs.12 crore;
- Delineation of the continental shelf to extend India's jurisdiction in the ocean beyond EEZ